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EXAMINER	
LE, NANCY LOAN T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3621	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/811,823	RODRIGUEZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	NANCY LOAN T. LE	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 June 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-47* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-47* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to amendment filed on 14 June 2005 in which Affidavit Rule 1.131 and/or Exhibits have been filed and received.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-47 have been examined and remain pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Amendment, filed 14 June 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-16, 20-30, 32-39, 41-47 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) on the basis of the U.S. Patent Publication no. 2002/0133396 (Barnhart) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of McClure et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,250,548 B1, published 26 June 2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> *A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –*
>
> *(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.*

Claims 1-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by McClure et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,250,548 B1, published 26 June 2001.

As per **claim 1**, McClure et al. disclose a method for completing and submitting an electronic voter registration form and an electronic ballot over a network, comprising the steps of:

- transmitting a blank electronic registration form, upon request at a first computer, via a transaction mediator, to the first computer *(i.e., Once registered, the voter accesses the jurisdiction's Internet site, typically referred to as a "home page" or Web site, and submits a request to vote – col. 36, lines 30-33; The voter completes the Internet vote request and the jurisdiction is notified, through their home page, that the request has been made -- col. 36, lines 40-42. This implies that an electronic vote request/registration form had already been transmitted to the voter's computer via the jurisdiction home page, upon the voter's request, prior to completing the request form)*;
- transmitting registration information from the first computer, via the transaction mediator, to a computer database that resides on a transaction repository server, all of which are networked together, to establish a registered voter (*i.e., The voter completes the Internet vote request and the jurisdiction is notified, through their home page, that the request has been made -- col. 36, lines 40-42. This implies that the electronic vote request/registration form has been transmitted from the voter's computer to the jurisdiction home page {understood as, to the voter registration database, which, of course, resides on a server – col. 9, lines 29-33}, upon completion of the voter's request/registration form*);
- transmitting a blank electronic ballot, upon request by the registered voter at a second computer, from the computer database that resides on the transaction repository server, via the transaction mediator, to the second computer (*i.e., The voter returns to the jurisdiction's home page and selects the cast ballot option – col. 37, lines 4-5; The ballot style information supplied by the issue number allows the Internet voting software to retrieve the ballot style data {i.e., blank electronic ballot} from the database and display it on the screen for the voter – col. 37, lines 17-20*); and
- transmitting a voted electronic ballot from the second computer, via the transaction mediator, to the computer database that resides on the transaction repository server (*i.e., Once the voter activates the cast ballot button, the executable code stored previously encrypts the*

resulting data using information from the identification file and transmits the data packet {i.e., including the voted ballot} to the Internet software host -- col. 37, lines 26-29; After verifying valid switch positions, ... , the Internet software randomly saves the ballot image in a secure database ... -- col. 37, lines 32-36).

As per **claim 2**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 1, comprising:

- establishing at least one computer database on the transaction repository server that contains information associated with at least one of a voter registration status of a citizen and an electronic ballot status (i.e., *the voter registration database – col. 9, lines 29-33, the tallying and reports databases – col. 9, lines 47-49, all of which, of course, reside on servers*);
- requesting a status at the first computer from the transaction repository server (*i.e., once the voter completes the Internet vote request and the jurisdiction is notified, through their home page, that the request has been made – col. 36, lines 40-42, it is understood that the voter is awaiting/requesting a status of the registration*);
- determining a status message in response to the step of requesting by examining the at least one computer database (*i.e., Electronic officials verify the information supplied by the voter and approve the assignment of an "issue number" for the voter – col. 36, lines 59-61*); and
- transmitting the status message from the transaction repository server to the first computer (*i.e., The issue number {understood as the status} is electronically sent to the voter via the Internet to the address supplied by the voter and defines the proper ballot style for the voter – col. 36, lines 61-63*).

As per **claims 3, 22, and 47**, McClure et al. disclose the method and system of claims 2, 20, and 46, respectively, wherein the voter registration status of the citizen and the electronic ballot status are verified (*i.e., A valid issue number is required to gain access to the cast ballot option ... Given a valid issue number, the identification file {contains voter's identification information} is verified as legitimate and the voter gains access to the cast ballot selection – col. 37, lines 5-15; After verifying valid switch*

positions {which are equivalent to the voter's responses}, as indicated for the voter's ballot style, the Internet software randomly saves the ballot image in a secure database ... -- col. 37, lines 32-36).

As per **claims 4 and 44**, McClure et al. disclose the method/system of claims 1 and 41, respectively, wherein the network includes:

- an encrypted communication channel between at least one of the first and second computer and the transaction mediator, and an encrypted communication channel between the transaction mediator and the transaction repository server (*i.e., The standard communication protocols employed provide further protection and include Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol {is cryptographic protocols which provide secure communications on the Internet – Wikipedia Encyclopedia} - a common feature in popular Internet access software/browsers, and Secure Multi-purpose Internet Mail {S/MINE} – col. 35, lines 52-67; col. 36, lines 1-9).*

As per **claims 5 and 45**, McClure et al. disclose the method and system of claims 1 and 41, respectively, wherein the registration information includes at least one descriptive element associated with a citizen (*i.e., ... the voter may be required to provide additional information such as sworn statements, driver's license, or birth certificate – col. 36, lines 24-27*).

As per **claims 6, 27, and 36**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claims 1, 23, and 32, respectively, wherein the step of transmitting registration information comprises:

- entering the registration information (McClure i.e., The voter completes the Internet vote request/registration form – col. 36, line 40); and
- digitally signing the registration information using a private key of a public-private key pair, wherein the public-private key pair is generated using an asymmetric cryptographic function, wherein a public key of the public-private key pair is associated with a cryptographic identification of a citizen, and wherein the public-private key pair and the cryptographic identification are created prior to transmitting the registration information *(i.e., The software provides a "firewall" function, encryption/decryption, digital signing, and support of* secure communication protocols – col. 35, lines 62-64. ... The

encryption/decryption and digital signature capability is used to encrypt data prior to transmission and decrypt received data. ... The digital signature capability is used to authenticate data that is both transmitted and received – col. 36, lines 1-6).

As per **claims 7 and 14**, the method of claims 6 and 13, respectively, wherein the step of transmitting registration information comprises:

- erasing from the first computer information associated with the registration information once the registration information has been transmitted (*i.e., The voter's PIN would be required to access {i.e., log in to} the voting option of the Web page, ... , and submits a request/registration to vote – col. 36, lines 29-33. This implies that once the voting registration information has been transmitted to the jurisdiction, the voter would log-off the web site; thus, automatically erasing/clearing such information from his/her computer screen*).

As per **claims 8 and 15**, McClure disclose a method of claims 6 and 13, respectively, wherein the step of transmitting registration information comprises:

- verifying the digital signature using the public key of the public-private key pair (*by Digital Signature Standard, a public-key cryptographic standard issued in 1994 by the United States Nat'l Institute of Standards and Technology {NIST} to authenticate electronic documents. The DSS uses a Digital Signature Algorithm {DSA} to generate and verify digital signatures based on a public key, which is not secret, and a private key, which is known or held only by the person generating the signature. A digital signature serves to authenticate both the identity of the signer and the integrity of the transmitted information – Microsoft Computer Dictionary, fifth edition*).

As per **claims 9, 28 and 37**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claims 6, 27 and 36, respectively, wherein the public-private key pair and the cryptographic identification can be used by the citizen with respect to a plurality of electronic transactions (see citation given in claim 8 above).

As per **claim 10**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting registration information comprises:

- approving or denying a voting registration request at the computer database based on the registration information of a citizen (*i.e., Election officials verify the information supplied by the voter and approve the assignment of an 'issue number' {for the voting registration request} for the voter – col. 36, lines 59-61*).

As per **claims 11, 24 and 34**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claims 1, 23, and 33, respectively, wherein the second computer is the first computer since registration and voting computers are client computers, thus are the same (understood).

As per **claims 12, 29 and 38**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claims 1, 26 and 33, respectively, wherein the step of transmitting a blank electronic ballot comprises:

- digitally signing the blank electronic ballot using a private key of a public-private key pair, wherein the public-private key pair is generated using an asymmetric cryptographic function, wherein a public key of the public-private key pair is associated with a cryptographic identification of an operator of the transaction repository server, and wherein the public-private key pair and the cryptographic identification are created prior to transmitting the blank electronic ballot (*i.e., The digital signature capability is used to authenticate data that is both transmitted and received – col. 36, lines 4-6. This implies a blank electronic ballot is digitally signed {by means of digital signature} using a private key of a public-private key pair {by Digital Signature Standard} prior to transmission*); and
- transmitting a public key of a public-private key pair of the transaction repository server (*inherently included*).

As per **claims 13, 30 and 39**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claims 1, 23 and 35, respectively, wherein the step of transmitting a voted electronic ballot comprises:

- executing the blank electronic ballot (*i.e., Once the voter activates the cast ballot button ... -- col. 37, line 26*);
- encrypting the voted electronic ballot using a symmetric cryptographic function and a symmetric key that is randomly generated by the second computer (*i.e., Once the voter activates the cast ballot button, the executable code stored previously encrypts the*

resulting/voted data using information from the identification file {which is created with data supplied by the Internet software and random information about the voter's computer – col. 36, lines 46-48} .:. -- col. 37, lines 26-29);

- encrypting the symmetric key using a public key of a public-private key pair of the transaction repository server (*understood by the public-key encryption standard*); and
- digitally signing the encrypted voted electronic ballot and the encrypted symmetric key using a private key of a public-private key pair, wherein the public-private key pair is generated using an asymmetric cryptographic function, wherein a public key of the public-private key pair is associated with a cryptographic identification of the registered voter, and wherein the public-private key pair and the cryptographic identification are created prior to transmitting the voted electronic ballot (*i.e., The digital signature capability is used to authenticate data that is both transmitted and received – col. 36, lines 4-6. This implies an encrypted voted electronic ballot is digitally signed {by means of digital signature} using a private key of a public-private key pair {by Digital Signature Standard} prior to transmission*).

As per **claim 16**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 13, comprising:

- reconciling transmitted voted electronic ballots by an operator of the transaction repository server to establish the validity of each transmitted voted electronic ballot (*i.e., The Internet software, secure behind the firewall, decrypts the transmission and converts the responses of the voter into equivalent switch positions for the voting tablet. After verifying valid switch positions, ... , the Internet software randomly saves the ballot image in a secure database and flags the issue number as no longer valid – col. 37, lines 30-36).*

As per **claim 17**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 16, comprising:

- separating a plurality of valid encrypted voted electronic ballots into groups based on at least one characteristic (*i.e., The interface with the voter during the voting process can occur in any language. The jurisdiction can provide different languages simply by the voter*

selecting their language of choice at the beginning of the voting process – col. 37, lines 39-42. This is understood as automatically separating a plurality of valid encrypted voted electronic ballots by languages);

- stripping the digital signature and the cryptographic identification of the registered voter from each group of valid encrypted voted electronic ballots (*i.e., The Internet software, secure behind the firewall, decrypts/strips the transmission {which, as understood, includes the digital signature and the cryptographic identification of the registered voter} and converts the responses of the voter into equivalent switch positions for the voting tablet -- col. 37, lines 30-32)*; and
- randomly mixing within each group the separated encrypted voted electronic ballots (*i.e., After verifying valid switch positions, ... , the Internet software randomly saves the ballot image in a secure database and flags the issue number as no longer valid – col. 37, lines 32-36*).

As per **claim 18**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 17, wherein the at least one characteristic is a type of voted electronic ballot (*i.e., The interface with the voter during the voting process can occur in any language. The jurisdiction can provide different languages simply by the voter selecting their language of choice at the beginning of the voting process – col. 37, lines 39-42. This is understood as automatically separating a plurality of valid encrypted voted electronic ballots by languages*).

As per **claims 19, 31 and 40**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claims 17, 30 and 39, respectively, comprising:

- decrypting the encrypted symmetric key of each separated voted electronic ballot using a private key of the public-private key pair of the transaction repository server (*i.e., The Internet software, secure behind the firewall, decrypts/strips the transmission {which, as understood, includes the digital signature and the cryptographic identification of the registered voter, the encrypted key, etc.} and converts the responses of the voter into equivalent switch positions for the voting tablet -- col. 37, lines 30-32)*;

- decrypting the encrypted voted electronic ballot using the symmetric key to recover the voted electronic ballot (*i.e., The Internet software, secure behind the firewall, decrypts/strips the transmission {which, as understood, includes the digital signature and the cryptographic identification of the registered voter, the encrypted key, the encrypted voted electronic ballot itself, etc.} and converts the responses of the voter into equivalent switch positions for the voting tablet. After verifying valid switch positions, as indicated for the voter's ballot style, the Internet software randomly saves the ballot image in a secure database ... -- col. 37, lines 30-36)*; and
- printing the voted electronic ballot (*i.e., This data is the sum of all voting tablets 56 and can immediately provide unofficial results for that precinct 48 by use of a precinct printer – col. 44, lines 6-9*).

As per **claim 20**, McClure et al. disclose a method for verifying at least one of a voter registration status and an electronic ballot status in a voting system, comprising the steps of:

- establishing at least one computer database on a transaction repository server that contains information associated with at least one of the voter registration status of a citizen and the electronic ballot status (i.e., *the voter registration database – col. 9, lines 29-33, the tallying and reports databases – col. 9, lines 47-49, all of which, of course, reside on servers*);
- requesting a status at a first computer from the transaction repository server (*i.e., once the voter completes the Internet vote request and the jurisdiction is notified, through their home page, that the request has been made – col. 36, lines 40-42, it is understood that the voter is awaiting/requesting a status of the registration*);
- determining a status message in response to the step of requesting by examining the at least one computer database (*i.e., Electronic officials verify the information supplied by the voter and approve the assignment of an "issue number" for the voter – col. 36, lines 59-61*); and

- transmitting the status message from the transaction repository server to the first computer (*i.e., The issue number {understood as the status} is electronically sent to the voter via the Internet to the address supplied by the voter and defines the proper ballot style for the voter – col. 36, lines 61-63*).

As per **claim 21**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 20, wherein a transaction mediator communicates information between the first computer and the transaction repository server (*i.e., as understood, the Internet voting software/browser {as a transaction mediator} transmits and receives {communicates} information between the voter's computer and the Internet voting software host/server*).

As per **claims 23 and 32**, McClure et al. disclose a method for completing and submitting an electronic voter registration form and an electronic ballot transmitted over a network, comprising the steps of:

- transmitting registration information from a first computer to a computer database that resides on a transaction repository server, all of which are networked together, to establish a registered voter (*i.e., The voter completes the Internet vote request and the jurisdiction is notified, through their home page, that the request has been made -- col. 36, lines 40-42. This implies that the electronic vote request/registration form has been transmitted from the voter's computer to the jurisdiction home page {understood as, to the voter registration database, which, of course, resides on a server – col. 9, lines 29-33}, upon completion of the voter's request/registration form*); and
- transmitting a voted electronic ballot from a second computer to the computer database that resides on the transaction repository server (*i.e., Once the voter activates the cast ballot button, the executable code stored previously encrypts the resulting data using information from the identification file and transmits the data packet {i.e., including the voted ballot} to the Internet software host -- col. 37, lines 26-29; After verifying valid switch positions, ... , the Internet software randomly saves the ballot image in a secure database ... -- col. 37, lines 32-36).*

As per **claim 25**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 23, comprising:

- transmitting a blank electronic registration form, upon request at the first computer, to the first computer *(i.e., Once registered, the voter accesses the jurisdiction's Internet site, typically referred to as a "home page" or Web site, and submits a request to vote – col. 36, lines 30-33; The voter completes the Internet vote request and the jurisdiction is notified, through their home page, that the request has been made -- col. 36, lines 40-42. This implies that an electronic vote request/registration form had already been transmitted to the voter's computer via the jurisdiction home page, upon the voter's request, prior to completing the request form)*.

As per **claims 26 and 33**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claims 25 and 32, respectively, comprising:

- transmitting a blank electronic ballot, upon request by the registered voter at the second computer, from the computer database that resides on the transaction repository server to the second computer (*i.e., The voter returns to the jurisdiction's home page and selects the cast ballot option – col. 37, lines 4-5; The ballot style information supplied by the issue number allows the Internet voting software to retrieve the ballot style data {i.e., blank electronic ballot} from the database and display it on the screen for the voter – col. 37, lines 17-20*).

As per **claim 35**, McClure et al. disclose the method of claim 33, comprising:

- transmitting a voted electronic ballot from the second computer to the computer database that resides on the transaction repository server (*i.e., Once the voter activates the cast ballot button, the executable code stored previously encrypts the resulting data using information from the identification file and transmits the data packet {i.e., including the voted ballot} to the Internet software host -- col. 37, lines 26-29; After verifying valid switch positions, ... , the Internet software randomly saves the ballot image in a secure database ... -- col. 37, lines 32-36*).

As per **claim 41**, McClure et al. disclose a system for completing and submitting an electronic voter registration form and an electronic ballot over a network, comprising:

- a transaction repository server for transmitting a blank electronic ballot to a first computer (*i.e., the Internet voting software host/server, on which the Internet voting software resides, allows the software to retrieve the ballot style data {understood as a blank electronic ballot} from the database and display it on the screen for the voter – col. 37, lines 18-20*);
- a computer database, accessible by the transaction repository server, for storing the blank electronic ballot (*i.e., the Internet voting software host/server, on which the Internet voting software resides, allows the software to retrieve the ballot style data {understood as a blank electronic ballot} from the database and display it on the screen for the voter – col. 37, lines 18-20)*; and
- a transaction mediator for communicating information between the transaction repository server and the first computer, the transaction mediator being operative to transmit registration information from the first computer to the computer database to establish a registered voter (*i.e., the Internet voting software such as browsers – col. 36, lines 30-35*).

As per **claim 42**, McClure et al. disclose the system of claim 41, wherein the transaction mediator is operative to transmit the voted electronic ballot from the first computer to the computer database (*i.e., the Internet voting software such as browsers transmits the data packet {which includes encrypted voted electronic ballot} to the Internet software host/server – col. 37, lines 26-29*).

As per **claim 43**, McClure et al. disclose the system of claim 42, wherein the first computer comprises multiple computers (i.e., The subsystem 46 at each of the precincts 48 includes ... a network of voting stations/computers 52, ... -- col. 7, lines 41-44).

As per **claim 46**, McClure et al. disclose a system for verifying at least one of a voter registration status and all electronic ballot status in a voting system, comprising:

- a first computer for requesting a status from a transaction repository server (*i.e., the voter's computer, as in, once the voter completes the Internet vote request {understood as at the voter's computer – col. 36, line 33}, and the jurisdiction is notified, through their home*

page, that the request has been made – col. 36, lines 40-42, it is understood that the voter is awaiting/requesting a status of the registration from the Internet voting software host/server); and

- at least one computer database, accessible by the transaction repository server, for containing information associated with at least one of the voter registration status of a citizen and the electronic ballot status (i.e., *the voter registration database – col. 9, lines 29-33, the tallying and reports databases – col. 9, lines 47-49, all of which, of course, accessible by the Internet voting software host/server*);
- the transaction repository server being operative for determining a status message in response to the status request by examining the at least one computer database, and for transmitting the status message to the first computer (*i.e., the Internet voting software host/server – col. 37, line 29*).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NANCY LOAN T. LE whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7066**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JAMES P. TRAMMELL can be reached on **(571) 272-6712**. ***For official/regular communication***, the fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(571) 273-8300**. ***For informal/draft communication***, the fax number is **(571) 273-7066 (rightfax)**.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see **http://pair-direct.uspto.gov**. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197 (toll-free).**

7. Any response to this action should be *mailed* to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

8. Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

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27 September 2006